

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/007,118

Examiner

Alecia D. Nelson

Applicant(s)

DALY, SCOTT J.

Art Unit

2675

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/16/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,4,6-9,27,30,33, and 36 (renumbered 1-11).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. **Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 27, 30, 33, and 36 (renumbered 1-11)** allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the references used either singularly or in combination teaches or fairly suggest. A method of spatially varying the luminance of a backlight illuminating a plurality of displayed pixels in response to a plurality of pixel values dependent on the content of an image to be displayed and modifying the illumination from the display based upon a filter that is determined at least in part by a non-uniform illumination profile of the light source, wherein different regions of the light source provide different non-zero luminance, as recited in **claims 1 and 36**. More specifically Asao et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0107538) teaches a display device that includes a plurality of pixels and a control means for controlling the display operations of each pixel including display a first image at a first luminance and a second image at a second image. However, this displaying of the first image at the first and second luminance occurs at different times, as opposed to spatially varying the luminance of the backlight as recited in the claims. Also, with reference to Asao et al., while there is disclosure of pixel data, there is no disclosure of the pixel data being supplied to the backlight driver for illuminating the pixels in response to a plurality of pixel values dependent on the content of the image to be displayed as recited in the claims. Zhang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,461,397) teaches a backlit display device which contains a plurality of independently

controllable backlight sections, however each of the sections are illuminated to the same intensity level at different times during the fame. Further newly cited reference Ogawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,597,339) teaches the usage of a backlight having different intensity levels based on the display content, however, there is no disclosure of spatially varying the luminance of the backlight as recited in the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

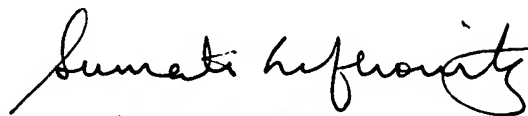
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alecia D. Nelson whose telephone number is 571-272-7771. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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4. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

adn/ADN
March 15, 2006



SUMATI LEFKOWITZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER